

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-15. (Cancelled)
16. A method for facilitating the transmission of a facsimile document to a recipient, the method comprising:
- a. defining a Gateway domain name for one or more Zones in an H 323 network, each Zone comprising a set of one or more Gateways;
 - b. obtaining, from a Gatekeeper associated with the H 323 network, utilization data concerning one or more Gateways in one or more of the Zones; and
 - c. generating a lookup table comprising a Gateway domain name for one or more of the Zones, the utilization data with respect to one or more of the Gateways in the Zones obtained from the Gatekeeper, and an IP address for one or more of the Gateways in the Zones.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising formatting the facsimile document in a format ~~suitable for its~~ transmission as an attachment to an electronic mail message.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein ~~the step of~~ formatting includes formatting the facsimile document as a TIF attachment.
19. The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ obtaining the utilization data includes querying the Gatekeeper periodically for the data.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein ~~the step of~~ querying the Gatekeeper includes ~~doing so~~ querying every minute.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the lookup table is maintained at a facsimile mail server.
22. The method of claim 16, wherein the lookup table is maintained at the Gatekeeper.
23. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 - a. determining, by reference to a telephone number of the recipient in an electronic mail message address, a Gateway domain name associated with a Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over a conventional telephone network to the recipient; and
 - b. selecting from the lookup table an IP address of a Gateway, from among the set of Gateways in the Zone associated with the Gateway domain name determined, whose utilization is lowest.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes determining the name by reference to an area code portion of the telephone number of the recipient.
25. The method of claim 23, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes determining the name by reference to an area code portion of the telephone number of the recipient for some area codes, and to a combination of an area

code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient for other area codes.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes determining the name by reference to an area code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient.

27-42. (Cancelled)

43. A system for facilitating the transmission of a facsimile document to a recipient, comprising:
- a. means for defining a Gateway domain name for one or more Zones in an H 323 network, each Zone comprising a set of one or more Gateways;
 - b. means for obtaining, from a Gatekeeper associated with the H 323 network, utilization data concerning one or more Gateways in one or more of the Zones; and
 - c. means for generating a lookup table comprising a Gateway domain name for one or more of the Zones, the utilization data with respect to one or more of the Gateways in the Zones obtained from the Gatekeeper, and an IP address for one or more of the Gateways in the Zones.
44. The system of claim 43, further comprising means for formatting the facsimile document in a format suitable for its transmission as an attachment to an electronic mail message.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the means for formatting includes means for formatting the facsimile document as a TIF attachment.
46. The system of claim 43, wherein the means for obtaining the utilization data includes means for querying the Gatekeeper periodically for the data.
47. The system of claim 46, wherein the means for querying the Gatekeeper includes means for querying~~doing so~~ every minute.
48. The system of claim 43, wherein the lookup table is maintained at a facsimile mail server.
49. The system of claim 43, wherein the lookup table is maintained at the Gatekeeper.
50. The system of claim 43, further comprising:
 - a. means for determining, by reference to a telephone number of the recipient in an electronic mail message address, a Gateway domain name associated with a Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over a conventional telephone network to the recipient; and
 - b. means for selecting from the lookup table an IP address of a Gateway, from among the set of Gateways in the Zone associated with the Gateway domain name determined, whose utilization is lowest.
51. The system of claim 50, wherein the means for determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient

includes means for determining the name by reference to an area code portion of the telephone number of the recipient.

52. The system of claim 50, wherein the means for determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes means for determining the name by reference to an area code portion of the telephone number of the recipient for some area codes, and to a combination of an area code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient for other area codes.
53. The system of claim 50, wherein the means for determining the Gateway domain name associated with the Zone from which the facsimile document will be transmitted over the conventional telephone network to the recipient includes means for determining the name by reference to an area code portion and an exchange portion of the telephone number of the recipient.
54. (Cancelled)